--61. An isolated polypeptide capable of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent bacterial cells, which polypeptide comprises: (i) a sequence of amino acid residues wherein the identities and relative positions of amino acid residues therein correspond to the residues indexed by asterisks in any one of the sequences set out in Figure 1 A or Figure 1 B(B), or (ii) a sequence which has at least 20% identity or homology with the sequence defined in (i).

62. The polypeptide of claim 61 which is any one of the polypeptides represented in Figure 1 A or Figure 1 B, or a homologue, allelic form, species variant or mutein thereof.

63. The polypeptide of claim 61 which is the *M. luteus* Rpf factor represented in Fig. 2A, or a homologue, allelic form, species variant or mutein thereof.

64. The polypeptide of claim 61 which is recombinant.

65. A pharmaceutical composition (e.g. a vaccine) comprising the polypeptide of claim 61.

66. The polypeptide of claim 61 which is:

(a) for use in therapy (e.g. immunotherapy), diagnosis or prophylaxis; and/or

(b) in a pharmaceutical excipient, a unit dosage form or in a form suitable for local or systemic administration.

67. An antibody (or antibody derivative) specific for the polypeptide of claim 61.

68. The antibody of claim 67 which is:

(a) for use in therapy (e.g. immunotherapy), diagnosis or prophylaxis; and/or

(b) in a pharmaceutical excipient, a unit dosage form or in a form suitable for local or systemic administration.

69. Isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide defined in claim 61.

70. A vector (e.g. an expression vector) comprising the nucleic acid of claim 69.

71. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 70.

72. The nucleic acid of claim 69 or vector of claim 70 in a pharmaceutical excipient.

73. A diagnostic kit, culture medium or transport medium comprising the polypeptide of claim 61.

74. An ex *vivo* method of diagnosis, comprising the step of contacting a biological sample with the polypeptide of claim 61.

75. A live vaccine comprising an attenuated microbe, which microbe bears a mutation in a gene encoding (or regulating the expression of) the polypeptide of claim 61.

76. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 35; and

(b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 54.

77. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 36.

78. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 36.

79. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which selectively or specifically cross hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35 or 54, or a complement thereof;

b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 150 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35 or 54, or a complement thereof;

c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 20% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36.

80. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 76, 77, 78, or 79 under stringent conditions.

81. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 76, 77, 78, or 79 .

82. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 76, 77, 78, or 79 , and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

83. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of 76, 77, 78, or 79 .

84. The vector of claim 82, which is an expression vector.

85. A host cell transfected with the expression vector of claim 84.

86. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 85 in an appropriate culture medium to, thereby, produce the polypeptide.

87. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 36;

b) a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO: 35 or 54 under stringent conditions;

c) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which selectively or specifically cross hybridizes to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 35 or 54; and

d) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 20% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36.

88. The isolated polypeptide of claim 87 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36.

89. The polypeptide of claim 87, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

90. An antibody which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 87.

91. A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide of claim 87 in a sample comprising:

a) contacting the sample with a compound which selectively binds to the polypeptide; and

b) determining whether the compound binds to the polypeptide in the sample to thereby detect the presence of a polypeptide of claim 87 in the sample.

92. The method of claim 91, wherein the compound which binds to the polypeptide is an antibody.

93. A kit comprising a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 87 and instructions for use.

94. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 76, 77, 78, or 79 in a sample comprising:

a) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe or primer which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and

b) determining whether the nucleic acid probe or primer binds to a nucleic acid molecule in the sample to thereby detect the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 76, 77, 78, or 79 in the sample.

95. The method of claim 94, wherein the sample comprises mRNA molecules and is contacted with a nucleic acid probe.

96. A kit comprising a compound which selectively hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 76, 77, 78, or 79 and instructions for use.

97. A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide of claim 87 comprising:

a) contacting the polypeptide, or a cell expressing the polypeptide with a test compound; and

b) determining whether the polypeptide binds to the test compound.

98. The method of claim 97, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) detection of binding by direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;

b) detection of binding using a competition binding assay; and

c) detection of binding using an assay for RP-factor activity.

99. A method for modulating the activity of a polypeptide of claim 87 comprising contacting the polypeptide or a cell expressing the polypeptide with a compound which binds to the polypeptide in a sufficient concentration to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.

100. A method for identifying a compound which modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 87 comprising:

a) contacting a polypeptide of claim 87 with a test compound; and

b) determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of the polypeptide to thereby identify a compound which modulates the activity of the polypeptide.

101. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

102. The isolated polypeptide of claim 101 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

103. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

104. The isolated polypeptide of claim 103 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

105. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

106. The isolated polypeptide of claim 105 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

107. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4.

108. The isolated polypeptide of claim 107 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

109. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5.

110. The isolated polypeptide of claim 109 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

111. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6.

112. The isolated polypeptide of claim 111 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

113. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7.

114. The isolated polypeptide of claim 113 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7.

115. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8.

116. The isolated polypeptide of claim 115 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

117. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9.

118. The isolated polypeptide of claim 117 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

119. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10.

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120. The isolated polypeptide of claim 119 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10.

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121. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11.

All concld.

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122. The isolated polypeptide of claim 121 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11.

8
123. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12.

9
124. The isolated polypeptide of claim 123 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12

10
125. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 36.--